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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Dr. Günter HALMSCHLAGER et al.

Serial No : 09/646,119
(National Stage of PCT/EP00/00491)

Group Art Unit: 1731

I.A. Filed : January 21, 2000

Examiner: Unknown

For : MACHINE AND PROCESS FOR PRODUCING A MULTI-LAYERED FIBROUS WEB

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. Sections 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicants submits the following documents for the Examiner's consideration:

Applicants submit herewith a copy of an International Search Report dated January 21, 2000, conducted in International Patent Application No. PCT/EP 00/00491, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the International Examiner cited:

- (1) U.S. Patent No. 5,788,816 issued to Steckenreuter et al. on August 4, 1998, as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone). In particular, the Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1, 2, 12 - 16, 23 - 27, and 36 - 39 of the International application;
- (2) European Patent Application No. 0 465 698, published January 15, 1992, as an "X" category document. In particular, the Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1,



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2, 23 - 27, and 37 of the International application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,468,348 issued to Blackledge et al. on November 21, 1995, which is identified by the annex to the Search Report as a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited document;

(3) European Patent application No. 0 289 445, published November 2, 1988, as an "X" category document. In particular, the Examiner noted the entire document as relevant to claims 1, 2, 23 - 27 and 37 of the International application. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 4,830,709 issued to Turner et al. on May 16, 1989, which is identified by the annex to the Search Report as a U.S. Patent family member of the above-cited document; and

(4) International Publication No. WO 99/40256, published August 12, 1999, as a "P" category document (i.e., an intervening document) and as an "A" category document (i.e., a document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance). The Examiner did not note any portions of the above-cited document as relevant to the claims of the International application.

Applicants submit herewith a copy of a German Search Report dated June 8, 2000 conducted in German Patent Application No. 100 02 547.1, which is a counterpart of the above-captioned application. In particular, the German Examiner cited:

(5) German Patent Application No. 26 45 763, published April 13, 1978, as an "X" category document (i.e., a document that calls into question of the novelty or inventive step when considered alone). In particular, the Examiner noted Figures 3 - 7 as relevant to claims 1 - 8, 21, 24, 26 - 32, and 36 of the German application;

(6) German Patent Application No. 198 03 591 A1, published August 5, 1999, as a "D" category document (i.e., a document discussed within the present application). Applicants note that the above-cited document is discussed on page 1, line 9 of the disclosure. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/237,842, filed January 27, 1999, which is a U.S. Patent application equivalent of the above-cited document;

(7) German Patent Application No. 197 04 443 A1, published August 13, 1998, as a "D" category document. Applicants note that the above-cited document is discussed in the present application beginning on page 1, line 9 of the disclosure. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/019,053, filed February 5, 1998, which is a U.S. Patent Application equivalent of the above-cited document;

(8) German Patent Application No. 44 02 273 A1, published June 16, 1994, as a "D" category document. Applicants note that the above-cited document is discussed in the present application beginning on page 1, line 10 of the disclosure. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent No. 5,635,033 issued to Grossmann et al. on June 3, 1997, which is a U.S. Patent equivalent of the above-cited document;


(9) German Patent Application No. 197 33 316 A1, published February 4, 1999, as a "D" category document. Applicants note that the above-cited document is discussed in the present application beginning on page 1, line 9 of the disclosure. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/124,973, filed July 30, 1998, which is a U.S. Patent Application equivalent of the above-cited document; and

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(10) German Patent Application No. 196 51 493 A1, published June 18, 1998, as a "D" category document. Applicants note that the above-cited document is discussed in the present application beginning on page 1, line 9 of the disclosure. For the Examiner's convenience, Applicants submit herewith a copy of U.S. Patent Application No. 08/987,981, filed December 10, 1997, which is a U.S. Patent Application equivalent of the above-cited document.

Should the Examiner have any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
Dr. Günter HALMSCHLAGER et al.


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